

'Going out of our heads and trying to find our way home'

A new, experimental approach to learning has been introduced by Sir George Williams University as part of its CEGEP-parallel program. Explorations I is open to about 100 students and provides three out of the necessary five first-year credits.

The special program is staffed by five experienced professors: Michael Brian, Associate Professor of English; William (Scotty) Gardiner, Assistant Professor of

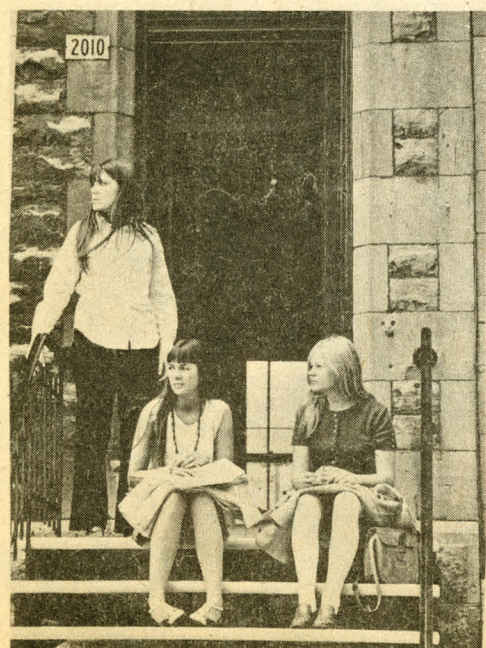


Psychology; Fred H. Knelman, Professor of History of Science; Stephen Scheinberg, Associate Professor of History; Lloyd Wood, Assistant Professor of Geography. Each will give three-fifths of his teaching time to Explorations I.

Fred Knelman, who describes himself as the non-co-ordinator co-ordinator, sees projects like Explorations I as one of the ways of taking the lid off the pressures building up in universities.

"Students want courses that have some relevance to them. They've been turned off in high school by the lecture system. They want to get away from that institutionalized atmosphere. Perhaps most important of all they're eagerly searching for individual identity. In fact, we have many students who are not enrolled in Explorations I coming round to the house. So what Explorations I seems to be doing is letting kids drop-in instead of dropping out.

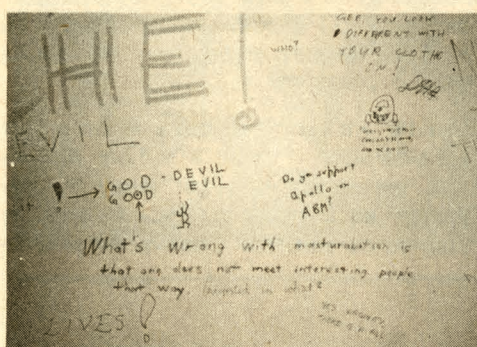
"I think we're still largely talking in slogans but the kids seem to have a sense of belonging here more than to the University. There are a lot of things that are very spontaneous like the graffiti. Also it's a lot easier to get people passionately involved with sex than pollution.



There seems too to be a lack of interest in politics because most of the kids here want to make rules only if it's necessary or expedient."

Housed in a separate building on Mackay street close to the University, Explorations I consists of the interdisciplinary study of urban living under the overall title of "The City, The Individual and Society." It is planned to treat the following five sub-themes: Ways of Knowing - perception, reason, learning, etc; Technology and the City - problems of the physical environment; Power - politics and propaganda; Conflict - majority and minority, poverty and wealth; Play - recreation and leisure.

Each sub-theme will be covered in turn in a five-week period. All the professors will deal with the same theme at the same time through approaching it according to their different disciplines. Each student has an individual professor as seminar leader for the duration of the academic year, but all professors will also lecture to the entire group. However, the program consists mainly of seminars and tutorials with assigned topics and reading



lists, and emphasis will be placed on the written quality of expression.

Each professor gives two seminars a week to his group. The first one is a discussion of the sub-theme from his perspective. During the second seminar of the week, each of the other professors discusses the same sub-theme. Once a week the entire group gets together for a lecture from one of the professors or from someone outside the Explorations experiment.

Stephen Scheinberg says it is still too early to assess the program because "we're still finding ourselves."

"The seminar group of twenty students has turned out to be a bit stifling. Some students are finding it very difficult because they still regard it as public speaking thing. We're also having some difficulty in selecting individual projects for the students.

"One thing I've noticed is that there seem to be three types of people here: very politically-concerned kids, the marijuana-rock group and then there are the above-

average, very bright kids who are just fed up with high school and continuing their education in the same manner.

"I think the setting up of a program like Explorations I says a lot for Sir George... you know we have many students here who were accepted by McGill and decided to come to Sir George for Explorations."

The emphasis at the Explorations house is on individuality. (There is no furniture in the house and so everyone sits or lies on the carpeted floors. This arrangement has proved so successful that only pillows and cushions will be added for comfort). They all have different expectations. But there is agreement about certain matters. They came to Explorations because they were all tired of high school and didn't want to go to a 'glorified high school'. They wanted a minimum of structures with less emphasis on grading and no



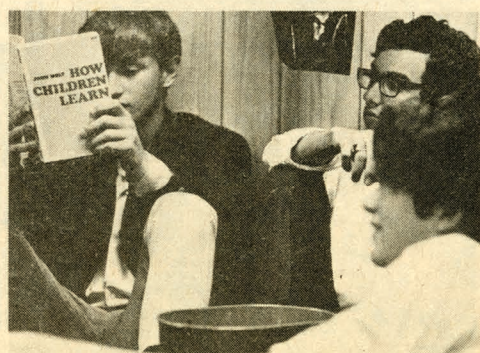
exams. At Explorations, that's what they've got.

One student reported that most of the kids were experiencing problems of adjustment to the atmosphere of freedom at Explorations.

"What we're trying to do here is step outside our heads and find our way home. But everyone here seems to be afraid to get to know other people. But things will roll along and work out. We've already set up some encounter groups, just two or three people where they have a chance to get to know each other.

"Things seem to be just happening. Explorations just happened. I think it may be pretty rough next year if we have to go to regular classes at Sir George. Most of us dislike going there for our other two first-year courses. It's just so different... it's a completely alien experience."

The title Explorations I indicates the experimental nature of the program. Cour-



ses of study are worked out with the students. Each student will work on a major project. One girl is interested in studying the penal institution as a method of ins-

truction. The allocation of time among the five sub-themes can be adjusted to meet the interests of the students, and the themes themselves can be adapted or replaced.

Last autumn a substantial body of Sir George students petitioned the administration to set up an experimental program of education within the Faculty of Arts. The project was handed to the Curriculum Planning Committee on which both faculty and students sit, and it charged Michel Despland, Assistant Dean of Arts, to survey programs in other uni-



versities. The Arts I program at the University of British Columbia proved particularly interesting, being a successful experimental undertaking in a large Canadian university. Explorations I was established on the basis of Professor Despland's recommendations, and will, it is hoped, provide further ideas for the development of both university and CEGEP education.

Selection of students for the program was according to interest, aptitude and academic qualifications; 101 were accepted from 200 applicants. Last year faculty members and a group of interested Sir George students visited Montreal area high schools to present to both teachers and students the purpose and nature of the program.

What happened at University Council

At the meeting of University Council held on Friday, September 26, Professor Neil Compton, president of SGWAUT, reported that SGWAUT Council had rejected the draft code of faculty rights and responsibilities prepared by a committee of SGWAUT during the summer.

After considerable discussion, University Council passed a resolution authorising the Vice-Principal Academic and two members of the Council to nominate a committee of five members who would negotiate with SGWAUT in order to bring about the insertion of a document on professional ethics within a total University code. The committee should get to work at once.

It was reported by the Principal that work was proceeding on a code for administrators; a first draft had been prepared and discussed. The code would be submitted to appropriate bodies of the University for review and criticism.

Reporting on the decision of SGWAUT Council, Professor Compton stated that a new proposal was already being worked on. He noted that faculty was very divided on both the purpose and nature of a code. Many believed that existing precedents and traditions were sufficient to meet the real needs of the University community. Dr. Despland, Assistant Dean of Arts, stated that he was unfavourably impressed by the attitude of faculty. While students were now protected against unverifiable accusations and arbitrary sanctions, faculty were not. Also, faculty, as opposed to the students, were not formally accountable for their actions. In reply, Professor Compton made the point that since faculty possessed a strong professional organization, and faculty rights and privileges were well defined, he could not see that the non-existence of a code was a threat to faculty's position.

Dr. O'Brien pointed out that the University was operating under the emergency regulations of last spring except on the student side, where they had been replaced

by the code. University Council had decided to defer taking action with regard to Faculty until SGWAUT had worked out an appropriate statement. But it remained ultimately responsible to the Board of Governors to recommend what code should be adopted.

Additions proposed to the Code of Student Behaviour

The committee which drafted the Code of Student Behaviour submitted a statement of additional procedures, which University Council decided to pass to the Review Committee. The document included the recommendation that any student who "knowingly and with intent" made a false charge or gave false evidence was guilty of an offence, and was liable to have his student privileges restricted or to be suspended.

The procedural regulations governed the laying of charges. A signed declaration outlining the alleged offence and all circumstances must be registered with the Administrator of Codes. He will forward this to a Preliminary Hearing Committee, composed of a day student, an evening student and a faculty member. If this committee considers there are grounds to proceed, the defendant will be required to plead guilty or not guilty. The Administrator of Codes will then convene the appropriate tribunal. Other regulations govern the calling of witnesses, the way tribunals shall proceed with their hearings, the issuing of verdicts, and the grounds for appeal.

Committee set up to study Pre-registration

The Principal announced that a committee was being set up to work with the Registrar on pre-registration. Its first task would be to come up with a clear statement of what was required to make pre-registration possible - for instance, the dates by which final and complete timetables would be needed. Because of the pressure of time, this must be submitted to University Council during October. Another committee was being ap-

pointed to work on revising the Announcement.

Arts Council adds evening student

A recommendation that the Arts Council add an evening student to its number was accepted. This brought up the question of what the other faculty councils were doing. All were apparently sympathetic to the idea of evening student representation, but pointed to the difficulty of holding evening meetings when many members of faculty were busy teaching. Alex Duff, Chairman of the Board of Governors, felt businesses would normally allow time off during the day to evening students fulfilling such a role, and he was sure the Board would be prepared to take the matter up with any companies involved.

New Committee on Academic Planning, Priorities and Budgets

The committee, which replaces the Academic Planning Committee of University Council, will consist of: the Principal, the two Vice-Principals, the Co-ordinator of academic planning, the academic Deans, faculty and student representati-

ves. It will study all proposed new programmes, satisfy itself as to their validity and value, and work out both immediate and long-term costs. On the basis of its own studies, as well as recommendations from faculty councils and the board of graduate studies, it will "make recommendations to University Council as to the priorities to be set amongst new and existing programmes." It will also study and make recommendations on "the budget allocations proposed for the ongoing academic operation of the University, in the context of the total University budget."

Philosophy and goals not yet defined

After many months of meetings and studies the Committee on Philosophy and Goals reported that it was unable to agree on any valid definitions, primarily because the University had been changing so much during the lengthy period of its mandate. It was agreed that there seemed no point in pursuing this matter until certain problems such as the role of the CEGEP had been settled. Accordingly, the committee was thanked for its efforts and disbanded.

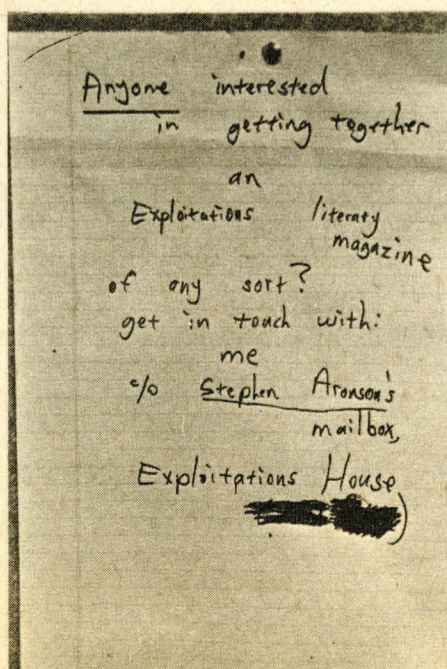
Committee to study further 'Explorations'

An ad hoc committee to examine the possibility of a new educational project for the 70/71 session has been set up by Alex Carsley, executive assistant to the S.A. president.

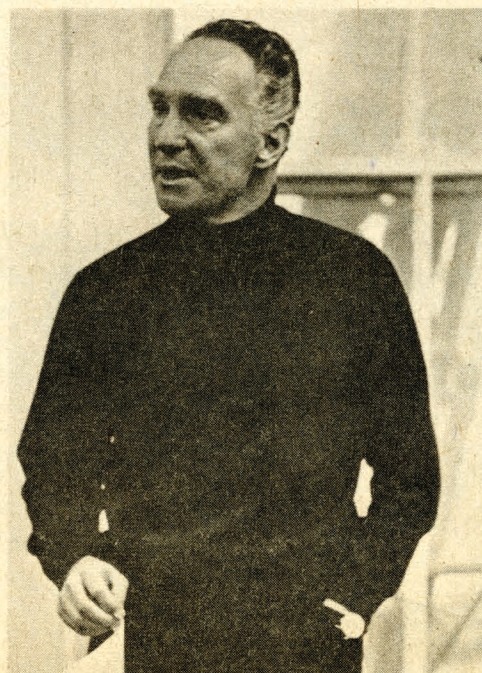
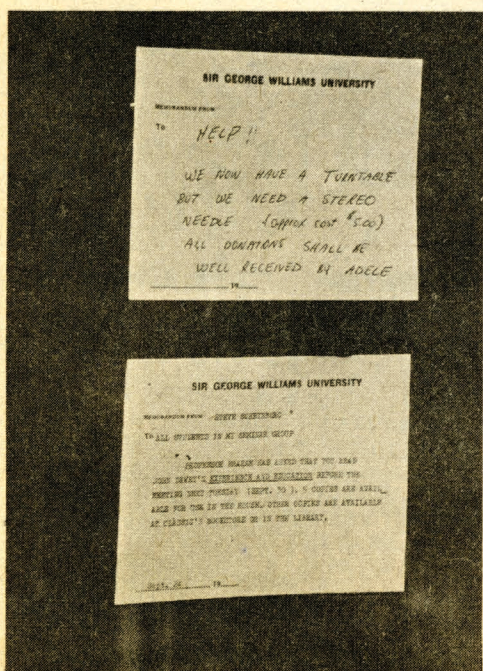
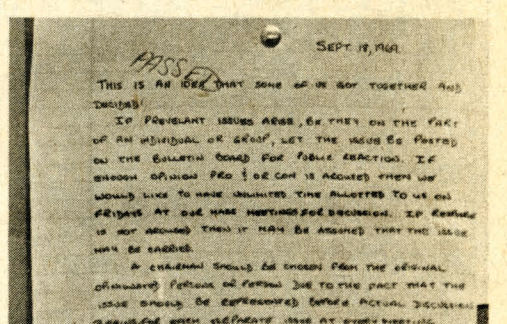
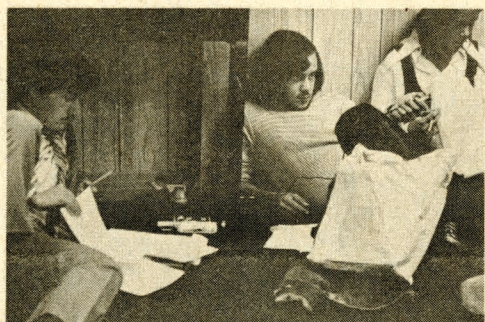
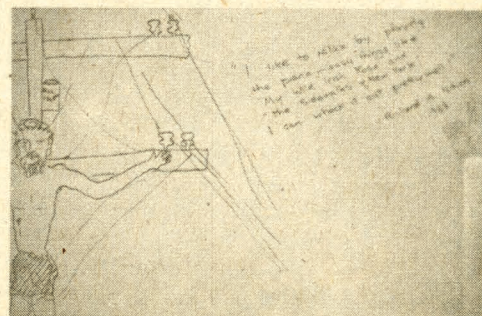
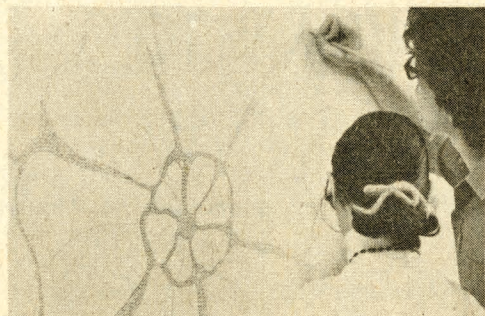
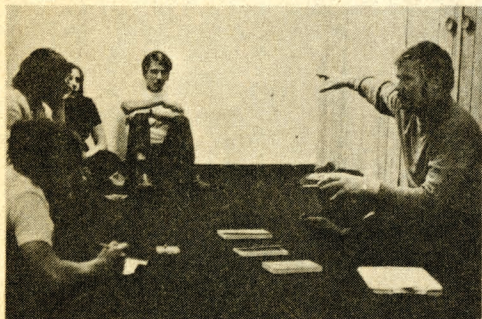
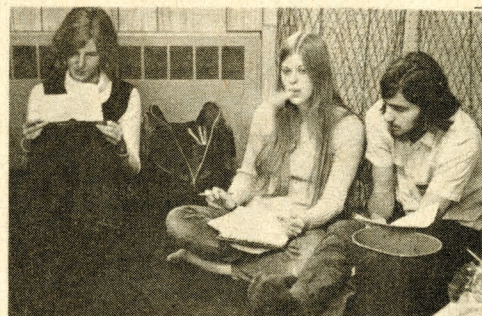
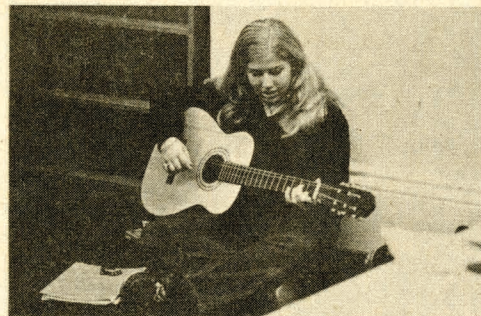
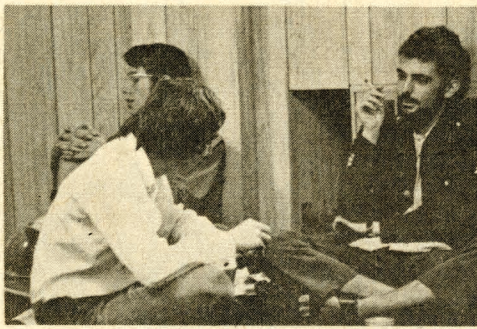
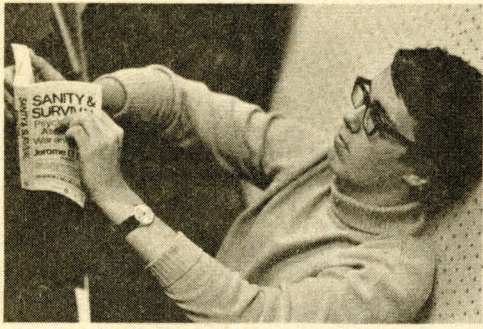
"So far we have set out five areas for consideration. Firstly, a topical discussion group for 4th year students. Secondly, an Explorations-type course for Commerce students. Thirdly, an urbano-

logy course. Fourthly, a course along the lines of the proposed new course 'Mirror of our Crisis.' And lastly, a course for all students but particularly Science students in the political implications of modern science," stated Carsley.

Interested students and faculty members have been invited to a first meeting to be held on Saturday, October 4.



dropping in at Explorations



THE WEEK AT SGWU

MONDAY 6

"CAN YOU ALL HEAR AT THE BACK?" A visit to the Explorations I house; channel 9 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Monday to Wednesday; 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CHANNEL 4: "Communications and Education" - a series of videotaped lectures by Prof. Charles Siepman, N.Y.U.: this week "Broadcasting: Thirty Years Retrospect" at 10, 10:30, 11 a.m., 2 and 2:30 p.m. through Friday on classroom monitors.

GALLERY I: New paintings by Maurice Joslin through October 11.

GALLERY II: Watercolours by Robert Kent through October 18.

UNIVERSITY ORIENTATION: Paul Butterfield Blues Band and Times Square Two at Place des Arts, 8:15 p.m.

TUESDAY 7

S.G.W. INVESTMENTS: John Price from Baker Weeks & Co. speaks on oil at 4 p.m. in the Commerce Lounge (basement of the Norris Building, room N-014)

HISTORY DEPARTMENT: Eugene Forsey talks on "Canadian Labour Unionism: the first 90 years - 1812-1902" in room H-635 at 8:30 p.m.

PHYSICS CLUB: Film "High Speed Flight" in room H-620 at 2:30 p.m.

VANIER INSTITUTE OF THE FAMILY: Jean Vanier speaks on "The Family Today" at 8:30 p.m. in Université de Montréal auditorium; in French with simultaneous translation.

THURSDAY 9

CONSERVATORY OF CINEMATOGRAPHIC ART: 1931 Russian Film "Zlatye Gory" (Mountains of Gold) H-110 at 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY 10

COMMERCE FACULTY COUNCIL: Meeting in H-769 at 2 p.m.

FOOTBALL: Loyola v. Sir George at Verdun stadium, 8 p.m.

GEORGIAN FILM SOCIETY: "The Magus" in H-110 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m., tickets 75c.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT : Guest speaker Prof. Douglas Sturm of Bucknell University on "The Interpenetration of Religion and Politics" in H-520 at 12 noon.

WEDNESDAY 8

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: Meeting in H-769 at 5:30 p.m.

YOUNG SOCIALIST CLUB: Raymond Lemieux is guest speaker in H-110 at 1 p.m.

PSYCHOLOGY CLUB: Film "Gateways of the Mind" in H-937 at 1 p.m.



The exciting Paul Butterfield Blues Band and the comedy act Times Square Two (seen above for lack of a shot of exciting Paul Butterfield) will share the stage at Place des Arts on Monday, October 6, at 8:15 p.m. The concert is sponsored by University Orientation. Tickets are on sale for \$3 and \$4 on the mezzanine of the Hall Building.



Explorations I students take you to their house on "Can you all hear at the back?" this week; channel 9 at 10 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SGWU ISSUES & EVENTS

SGWU ISSUES & EVENTS is published weekly by the Information Office of Sir George Williams University, Montreal. The Editorial Offices are located in Room 211 of the Norris Building, 1435 Drummond Street, Montreal 107, Quebec. Telephone 879-2867.

Michael Sheldon
Malcolm Stone
Arnold Zeman